

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P064

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: McIntosh

Serial No.: 09/932,539

Filed: 08/17/2001

For: MULTIPLE BORE CHRISTMAS
TREE OUTLET

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: J. Dougherty

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Response to Office Action

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated March 27, 2003.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner states that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the priority application, UK Patent Application No. GB 0020591.4. However, a certified copy of GB 0020591.4 was attached to the signed Declaration which applicant filed on December 20, 2001 in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application dated September 20, 2001. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner recheck the office file to determine whether the certified copy of GB 0020591.4 is indeed present.

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Claims 1, 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (U.S. Patent No. 4,130,161). With respect to claim 1, however, Jones does not disclose a production Christmas tree having multiple production outlets extending from a single production bore. To the contrary, the christmas tree of Jones comprises a single production outlet 11b. The bore 12a which branches off of the production bore 11a is not a production outlet; rather, it is an auxiliary bore that provides wireline access to the production bore 11a (see Figure). Therefore, Jones does not anticipate claim 1.

Furthermore, claims 3 and 6 depend from claim 1. Therefore, these claims are novel over Jones for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

In addition, claim 6 is independently patentable over Jones because Jones does not disclose a horizontal christmas tree. As is well understood by the person of ordinary skill in the art, a horizontal christmas tree comprises a lateral production outlet which communicates with a lateral production bore in a tubing hanger that is supported in the vertical production bore of the tree. See, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 6,494,257. Such an arrangement is not disclosed in Jones. Therefore, claim 6 is not anticipated by Jones.

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,357,491). With respect to claim 1, however, Jones et al. does not disclose a production Christmas tree having multiple production outlets extending from a single production bore. Jones et al. discloses only one production outlet, that is, bore 30. Bore 34 is not a production

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outlet. Rather, bore 34 is an auxiliary bore which provides vertical access to the tubing string. Therefore, Jones et al. does not anticipate claim 1.

Furthermore, claims 3, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1. Therefore, these claims are novel over Jones et al. for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Moreover, claim 6 is independently patentable over Jones et al. because this patent does not disclose a horizontal christmas tree. As discussed above, a horizontal christmas tree comprises a lateral production outlet which communicates with a lateral production bore in a tubing hanger that is supported in the vertical production bore of the tree. Since Jones et al. does not disclose such a christmas tree, claim 6 is not anticipated by this patent.

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wolff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,082,147). With respect to claim 1, however, Wolff et al. does not disclose a production Christmas tree having multiple production outlets extending from a single production bore. Although Figure 1 of Wolff et al. shows a christmas tree X which includes a pair of wing valves WV1 and WV2, this patent does not state whether both of these valves are connected to the production bore B. One possibility is that one of the valve is connected to the production bore and the other is connected to the tubing annulus, that is, the volume within the casing C which surrounds the production bore. Therefore, Wolff et al. does not anticipate claim 1.

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Furthermore, claims 3, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1. Therefore, these claims are novel over Wolff et al. for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Also, claim 6 is independently novel over Wolff et al. because this patent does not disclose a horizontal christmas tree.

Claims 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Jones, or Jones et al. or Wolff et al. However, these claims depend from claim 1. Therefore, to the extent that the instant rejection is based on the Examiner's assertion that claim 1 is anticipated by these references, applicant submits that claims 2, 4 and 5 are patentable over Jones, Jones et al. and Wolff et al. for the reasons stated above.

In light of the foregoing, claims 1-7 are submitted as allowable. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 27, 2003

HENRY C. QUERY, JR.

Patent Attorney At Law

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

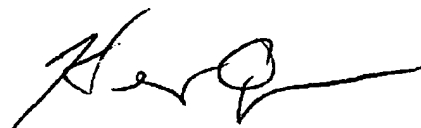
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| TO: | FROM: |
| Examiner Jennifer Dougherty | Henry C. Query, Jr. |
| COMPANY: | DATE: |
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| Inventor(s): McIntosh | |
| Filed: 08/17/2001 | |
| For: Multiple Bore Christmas Tree Outlet | |

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Dear Examiner Dougherty:

Enclosed in connection with the above-referenced application is a Response to Office Action which is responsive to the Office Action dated March 27, 2003.

Sincerely,



Henry C. Query, Jr.

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GROUP 3600

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I hereby certify that this correspondence, consisting of 5 total pages, is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 27, 2003.


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